



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Creating Your Own Half Black AOC Line

By Jim Alderson, DVM

Half-black Any Other Color is a fish with a half-black body and caudal color which is not red, black, blue, yellow or pastel. It is a half-black fish for which there is not a color class. Thus, a fish with a half-black body (H/B) and a solid green or solid purple tail would be considered a H/B AOC.

Many of the H/B lines show increased size. Vigor and fertility. H/B crosses tend to produce increased hybrid vigor, Hybrid vigor is the boost in the growth, fertility and activity your fish will show due to the mixing of the genes. The genetic variability and hardiness of me H/B make them an excellent line for the beginner.

First you must acquire a good H/B line. H/B blues, H/B with a variegated caudals, and H/B pastels are all good lines to use to create your own new line. Try to get large fish with good finnage and a good black body color.

Do not worry too much about the purity of color in the caudal and dorsal. You are going to change that anyway.

The H/B color may be sex linked or it may be autosomal and be inherited independently of the sex of the fish. It may be dominant or recessive. Unless the breeder you get the fish from can help you out, you will have to make a couple crosses to determine the inheritance pattern.

Below are some crosses I have used to make some of the H/as I have raised, I am only listing the crosses I have made at least twice that eventually produced show quality fish.

H/B PASTEL MALE X VARIEGATED SNAKESKIN FEMALE

One hundred percent H/Bs: Males have pastel caudals and dorsals with round black dots. Females also have pastel caudals and dorsals with black dots. Females are striking! Good cross. You can show the males and the females. Some of the males lack good pattern in the dorsal.

H/B PASTEL MALE X PURPLE FEMALE

Very large offspring with hybrid vigor. Caudal and dorsal color is white streaked with black and purple. Some females are non H/B. Females are nondescript. Use only the H/B females for breeding. In the sib cross of the offspring you will get some very nice non-H/B purple bicolors. In my tanks these fish are very large and the few times I have shown them they have won the AOC bicolor class. In two generations you have two show quality lines of guppies from one cross.

H/B BLUE MALE X GREEN FEMALE

The goal is to produce a H/B green. The first generation will produce mostly H/B blues, All will be H/B. Breeding the offspring will produce all H/B females and a few H/B green males. I am currently working with this cross and have set up second generation H/B green breeders. The females are quite striking with mint green caudal fins.

H/B BLUE MALE X PURPLE FEMALE

The goal is to produce a H/B purple (also known by several hobbyists as black orchids), The first generation will produce H/B purples with some white streaks or variegation in the caudal. It may produce some H/B purples in the first generation. The females are dark and nondescript. These are very nice fish that develop large purple caudal fins.

In next month's issue of Guppy Roundtable, we will cover more Half/Black crosses that eventually produce show-quality fish.

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Filtration



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